

SOT Student e-Letter



WINTER 2013-2014 EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

A MESSAGE FROM THE GSLC

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the SOT Student e-Letter! This annual newsletter is published by the SOT Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC) for graduate students. This edition of the newsletter contains important information about the upcoming 53rd SOT Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, including the wide range of opportunities for students to network and get involved. It also contains information on where to find updates on the SOT website and links to websites where you can learn more about the SOT component groups.

-The Graduate Student Leadership Committee

ABOUT THE GSLC

Each Regional Chapter (RC), Special Interest Group (SIG), and Specialty Section (SS) elects one graduate student member to represent their group in the GSLC. The GSLC *Executive Board* oversees the committee. GSLC officers include three Subcommittee Secretaries, although they do not serve on the Executive Board. The GSLC was created to provide student leadership at the national SOT level. Our job is to address the needs of students in the society and to promote student participation and membership. If you are interested in learning more about the GSLC, please visit us at the [graduate student page](#) on the SOT website or just [get in contact with one of us!](#)



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Commonly Used Acronyms

SOT – Society of Toxicology

GSLC – Graduate Student Leadership Committee

RC – Regional Chapter

SIG – Special Interest Group

SS – Specialty Section

2014 Annual Meeting News



GET UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DETAILS AT:

[HTTP://WWW.TOXICOLOGY.ORG/AI/MEET/AM2014/INDEX.ASP](http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2014/index.asp)

MEET US IN ARIZONA!

FIVE SCIENTIFIC THEMES

The 2014 Annual Meeting will feature five scientific themes covering the following topics:

- **Advancing Clinical and Translational Toxicology and Application of Biomarkers**
- **Enhancing Strategies for Risk Assessment**
- **New Science and Perspectives Surrounding Environmental and Occupational Exposures**
- **Safety Assessment: Mechanisms and Novel Methods**
- **Stem Cell Models for Integrated Biology**

Many of the scientific sessions, including symposia, workshops, and roundtable discussions, will highlight these themes and how they relate to toxicological research.

Student Events at the Annual Meeting

The GSLC sponsors a number of programs and events at the SOT Annual Meeting, each designed to add to your experience. These programs, described below, are excellent venues to network with your peers and with other meeting attendees. The events are summarized below, but you can find additional information, as well as a Student Planner PDF document, on the [Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Events page](#) of the Annual Meeting website. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Phoenix!

-The Graduate Student Leadership Committee

GSLC AND PDA CO-SPONSOR A 2014 SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

The GSLC and Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) have co-sponsored a symposium session at the 2014 Annual Meeting on **Monday, March 24** from **2:00-4:45 PM**. The session, entitled “Is Neuroimmune Crosstalk Important to Neurotoxicology? Critical Insight from Animal and Human Studies” fits well with the SOT scientific theme “Advancing Clinical and Translational Toxicology and Application of Biomarkers.” The symposium session is co-chaired by GSLC Chairs, Traci Brown and Colleen McLoughlin of the PDA. The purpose of this session is to address how interactions between the immune and nervous systems can mediate and/or modulate neurotoxicity and to investigate how neuro-immune interactions can guide improvement of disease diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. Emerging evidence establishes a role for immune signaling in key neurodevelopmental events, as well as in the pathogenesis of neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disease. Simultaneously, neurons may influence immune responses in the nervous system by signaling to resident and infiltrating immune cells. The net result of neuroimmune crosstalk depends on the balance between protective and destructive signaling pathways, and there is increasing consensus that exposure to neurotoxicants may tip this balance towards a more disruptive outcome and augment the risk and/or severity of disease. This session will present evidence of neuroimmune perturbations in human studies and animal models of neurotoxicant exposure. Evidence from human studies will focus on immune alterations following developmental neurotoxicant exposure in children with documented neurological deficits and in a pediatric population with autism spectrum disorders. Supporting data from animal models will focus on peripheral immune alterations and neuroinflammation following developmental or adult nervous system insult. This symposium continues our previous success as a co-sponsor of symposia at the past four Annual Meetings. Please plan to attend and support your student and postdoc colleagues!

EXPERT/GRADUATE STUDENT MEET-UPS

The **Chat with an Expert (CWAE)** program provides a special opportunity for small groups of students and postdoctoral scholars to meet with Associate or Full SOT member Experts to network and gain insight into the field of toxicology over an informal meal, coffee, snack, or chat. Student and Expert matching occurs several weeks before the Annual Meeting, based on the interests of the students and the area of expertise of the Experts. After completion of the matching, students will be sent the date and time for their meeting in addition to a brief survey that should be forwarded on to their expert in order to facilitate better discussion.

Groups meet at the CWAE poster board in the registration area of the Convention Center at the appointed time and then proceed to the designated place for an informal discussion. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to network. This program was expanded to include Chat with a Postdoc and Chat with a Graduate Student. Information on this program and registration instructions are available on the [SOT website](#).

MENTORING BREAKFAST

Register Now for the 2014 SOT Mentoring Breakfast—March 24 in Phoenix

The 3rd annual SOT Mentoring Breakfast, which will be held during the SOT Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, is an opportunity for those interested in developing relationships with career mentors. Attendees will:

- Gain insights to the successful development of a constructive mentoring relationship,
- Provide us with information about what they are looking for in a mentor, and
- Be personally matched with a mentor who is an SOT member.

The SOT Mentoring Breakfast will be held on Monday, March 24, 2014 from 6:15 am–7:45 am. The event is limited to **60 mentees** on a first-come, first-served basis. An attendance fee of \$10 includes a continental breakfast

Please note: only mentees interested in being matched with a mentor should register for this event. Matching of the registered mentees with a mentor will take place shortly following the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in being considered as a **mentor**, please sign up through the [SOT Mentor Match website](#).

Interested **mentees** can sign up for the SOT Mentoring Breakfast through the [SOT Online Registration](#).

STUDENT/POSTDOCTORAL MIXER

Every year the GSLC hosts the **Student/Postdoctoral Mixer** for students and postdoctoral fellows to gather, meet new colleagues, and re-establish relationships in an informal environment. The Mixer will be held **Sunday, March 23** from **7:30-9:00 PM**. This is a great opportunity to network with students from across the nation and the world, as well as learn more about the different RCs, SIGs, and SSs within SOT. **Tickets are FREE** and can be obtained by signing up for this event when you register for the Annual Meeting [online](#) or via the [print registration form](#). A ticket and meeting badge are required for entry. Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

IN VITRO LECTURE AND LUNCHEON FOR STUDENTS

The annual ***In Vitro* Lecture and Luncheon** for Students will be held on **Monday, March 24** from **12:00-1:20 PM**, at the Annual Meeting. This event is sponsored by the Colgate-Palmolive Company. The goal of the *In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture series is to feature important research using *in vitro* and alternative techniques to study basic mechanisms and to illustrate how these test methods benefit animal welfare by refining, reducing, and replacing animal use whenever feasible. Graduate students, undergraduates, postdoctoral scholars, and recipients of Colgate-Palmolive awards are among the guests at the *In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture and Luncheon. Register *via* the Annual Meeting registration, and the \$10 deposit will be returned upon entry to the event.

TOX SHOWDOWN

Join the GSLC and your peers **Tuesday, March 25**, from **7:30-9:00 PM** for the [Tox ShowDown](#), an engaging quiz game patterned off the popular long-running show *It's Academic*. Teams of contestants will compete at answering questions concerning toxicology not only in its scientific context, but as it relates to society, the arts, and culture. Sponsored by GSLC and chaired by Phil Wexler and Dr. Sue Ford, this event is a lot of fun for the audience and contestants both. Everyone is welcome to attend the *Tox ShowDown*; no ticket necessary. For more information on the Tox ShowDown, email [Alessandro Venosa](mailto:avenosa@eden.rutgers.edu) (<mailto:avenosa@eden.rutgers.edu>) or [Phil Wexler](mailto:wexlerp@mail.nih.gov) (wexlerp@mail.nih.gov).

POSTER TOURS FOR TRAINEES

Poster Tours for Trainees will once again provide students and postdoctoral scientists the opportunity to participate in a one-hour guided poster tour with an expert toxicologist. This event will allow trainees to take part in critical evaluation of cutting-edge toxicology methods and research findings, network with an expert, and perhaps even build a long-term relationship with a senior toxicologist. Options to sign up for specific times will be coming soon.

RECRUITING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM PEER MENTORS

The Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) is asking graduate students and postdocs to join them in an important effort to recruit the next generation of toxicologists by serving as Peer Mentors for the Undergraduate Education Program. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary at the 2014 SOT Annual Meeting, this program provides the opportunity for promising undergraduates to learn about toxicology and the rewards of careers in biomedical science. About 25-30 undergraduate students will be accepted for the program. Groups consist of about 5 students plus one or two peer mentors and senior toxicologists. These groups interact throughout the program, including meals. Peer Mentors play a key role in helping students learn more about an educational and career pathways in toxicology.

Please volunteer to assist by contacting [Senthil Kuppusami](mailto:sentilpk@gmail.com) [sentilpk@gmail.com], [Brittany Baisch](mailto:brittany_baisch@urmc.rochester.edu) [brittany_baisch@urmc.rochester.edu], or [Susan Simmons](mailto:susan@toxicology.org) [susan@toxicology.org]. Peer Mentors will need to plan their arrivals into Phoenix so that they can be at the training session Saturday afternoon, March 22. This year the Monday program has been expanded and we will be looking for Peer Mentors who can stay with students through the close of the program late Monday afternoon.

YOU TOX VIDEO CHALLENGE

The **YouTox Video Challenge** is a fun video submission competition where you can compete for cash prizes (\$300-first, \$200-second, \$100-third). Winners will be recognized at the annual meeting during the Graduate student/Postdoctoral mixer. See the [graduate student page](#) on the SOT website for more information and a link to the flyer. This is a great opportunity to show everyone why you love Toxicology!!!

GSLC Communications Update

The Communications Subcommittee of the GSLC has been working to improve communication with student members by reducing the length of the winter e-letter and sharing the extra information in the form of short updates posted throughout the year. These short updates can be found as ToXchange posts which are titled “**GSLCorner**.” The updates should be sent to the email address that you have registered with SOT. If you miss any of the email updates, they are stored in ToXchange on the [graduate student page](#) under “Graduate Student Announcement Topics”. Updates that have been posted already this year include announcements of award winners and notable seminar topics/events from RC, SS, and SIG fall meetings, YouTox video contest announcements, upcoming travel award deadlines, continuing education opportunities, and annual meeting alerts.

Student Membership Information

Being a student member at the national level provides excellent opportunities to interact with other student members and toxicology experts in SOT. You are permitted access to ToXchange, the SOT Online Job Bank, and student awards. Most importantly, you have the opportunity to be a part of a larger community of scientists and gain eligibility for student leadership positions. Membership in SOT facilitates communication that could open the door for new research collaborations. It is also a great way to network with future employers!

Not a Member? [Apply today!](#) Already a student member of SOT, [then renew your dues online.](#)

BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR REGIONAL CHAPTER

There are 18 RCs within the SOT whose purpose is to foster scientific exchange at the local level. These chapters sponsor regional meetings throughout the year that offer exceptional scientific programs, renowned speakers, and opportunities for student involvement in poster and seminar sessions. Though students can join RCs and enjoy the benefits without becoming members of the national SOT, there are many advantages to belonging to both SOT and a RC!

PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOT has established 6 SIGs to promote the recruitment of toxicologists who share a common interest in toxicological research with a common country of origin, ethnicity, or gender. The goals of these groups are to develop and conduct programs and opportunities that promote career development and recognize accomplishments of the toxicologists in each SIG.

JOIN A SPECIALTY SECTION

There are 27 SSs within the SOT designed to bring together scientists of similar interests, expertise, and experience. The SSs are primary sponsors of many of the programmatic sessions during the SOT Annual Meeting. Students are encouraged to join a SS because such groups provide students with opportunities for future employment and collaborations, as well as provide a platform for students to suggest scientific sessions and symposia for the Annual Meeting. The SSs encourage student involvement by providing funds for competitive **student travel awards and best abstract awards** that recognize your accomplishments.

JOINING A COMPONENT GROUP IS EASY!

Simply indicate which RC/SIG/SS you would like to join when you renew your national membership on-line. You can join a component group at any time during the year by clicking on "Manage Membership" on the [SOT Members page](#). While student membership is a steal at \$20/year, as an extra bonus **student membership dues for one SS and one SIG per year are free!**

GSLC Contact Information

GSLC OFFICERS:

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***GSLC Executive Board**

GSLC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

American Association of Chinese in Toxicology	Kathy Xue	ksxue@uga.edu
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin	Shirisha Chittiboyina	schittib@indiana.edu
Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists	Catherine Rondelli	cmrondel@utmb.edu
Korean Toxicologists Association in America	Hae-Ryung Park	heaven@umich.edu
Toxicologists of African Origin	Wilbes Mbiya	wmbiya@pdx.edu
Women in Toxicology	Brittany Baisch	Brittany.baisch@kraftfoods.com

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Occupational and Public Health	Sonja Christensen	Sonja.christensen@umontana.edu
Ocular Toxicology	TBD	NA

Regulatory and Safety Evaluation	TBD	NA
Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology	Jackson Nteebea	nteeba@iastate.edu
Risk Assessment	TBD	NA
Stem Cells	Justin Colacino	colacino@umich.edu
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This e-letter was produced by the Graduate Student Leadership Committee.

